Benefits of camels' milk

†3403. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether N.R.I.C. has conducted any research on camels' milk and their milk products;

(b) the name of camels' milk food products available in the market;

(c) the names of diseases in which camels' milk has been helpful in curing them;

(d) whether number of camels is decreasing; and

(e) if so, the measures being taken to check their decreasing numbers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Raw and flavoured camel milk and its products like camel milk tea, coffee and ice-cream are presently available at the institute milk parlour. Efforts are underway to sell them through Rajasthan Cooperative Dairy Federation (RCDF).

(c) The research conducted in collaboration with S.P. Medical College, Bikaner has found that the camel milk is useful in Diabetes type I and II and as adjuvant therapy in Tuberculosis.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Following measures are being taken:—

* Four breeds of camel are being conserved and propagated in the Institute.
* Diversification of camel into milk production has been taken up to enhance economic contribution.
* Positive aspect of using camel for power (electricity) generation is also being demonstrated.
* Package of practices for economic camel rearing is being developed and also value addition of camel milk is being popularized to increase the utility of camel so that more number of farmers can go for camel rearing.

Subsidy for indigenous farming

3404. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that new farm policy emphasise on reducing people's dependence on agriculture and encouraging corporate farming;

(b) if so, what alternative plans Government has got in mind for the farmers;

(c) whether Government will give farmers direct income support apart from loan relief and revive indigenous and sustainable farming practices by giving subsidy support;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) The National Policy for Farmers, 2007, approved by the Government aims to improve economic viability of farming by substantially increasing the net income of the farmers. The policy have a large number of provisions to address the problems faced by the farmers in its entirety, which *inter-alia*, include, provisions for, asset reforms in respect of land, water, livestock, fisheries and bio-resources; provision for access to productive assets and or market driven skills, strengthening support services and inputs like application of frontier technologies; agricultural bio-security system; supply of good quality seeds and disease-free planting material, improving soil fertility; integrated pest management system; timely, adequate and easy reach of institutional credit at reasonable interest rates and farmer-friendly insurance instruments; use of Information and Communication Technology and setting up of farm schools to revitalize agricultural extension; development of agricultural market infrastructure and terminal markets for agriculture; curriculum reforms in agricultural universities; rural non-farm employment initiative for farm households; and integrated approach for rural energy, etc. The policy also provides for cooperative farming, group farming by SHGs, small holders' estates, contract farming and state farms and lays emphasis on sustainable farming practices and for documentation of traditional knowledge.

Use of foodgrains to produce bio-fuel

3405. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India expressed concern at the increasing use of foodgrains for production of bio-fuels at the "Third International Grain Summit-2008" at Sharm-EI-Sheikh, Egypt;

(b) whether India expressed concerns over unprecedented increase in their prices making the foodgrains unaffordable for poor population of the world;

(c) if so, how far diversion of foodgrains for production of bio-fuel has resulted into food shortage;

(d) what steps has been taken by Government to enhance food security which has become world wide phenomenon due to shortage of foodgrains in exporting countries; and

(e) the details of shortfall of foodgrains in the country for the last three years alongwith supply position of source of supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India in the "Third International Grain Summit 2008" held at Sharm-EI-Sheikh, Egypt, expressed concern over the increasing use of foodgrains for production of bio-fuels which has resulted into unprecedented increase in the prices of foodgrains making them unaffordable for poor population of the world.

(c) The household consumption requirement of rice and wheat during 2007-08 in the country is estimated at 89.47 million tonnes and 68.59 million tonnes against which the production of rice and wheat is estimated at 95.68 and 76.78 million tonnes respectively (3rd Advance Estimates - 2007-08) thereby indicating adequate availability of rice and wheat.

(d) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) has been launched with effect from Rabi 2007-08 and presently the scheme is in operation in 311 districts of 17 States. NFSM aims to enhance the production of rice, wheat and pulses by 10.00, 8.00 and 2.00 million tonnes,